

Directions:

Driving from MCAS Iwakuni to Kansai Airport in Osaka

Kansai Airport in Osaka is about 460 km (286 miles) from Iwakuni and takes from 5 to 6 hours depending on how many times you stop, how fast you drive, traffic, etc. (It took us 5 hours and 20 minutes on a day with very light traffic and a short lunch stop on the way.)

You can enter the **Sanyo Expressway** at either the Iwakuni IC or Otake IC. (I prefer Otake.)

To enter at Otake IC: Exit the main gate, cross the tracks, and turn right on route 188 at the first traffic light. Follow route 188 until route 2. At route 2, turn right towards Otake. When you spot YouMe Town on your right, move into the left lane. The entrance ramp to the expressway is just after YouMe town.

To enter at Iwakuni IC: Exit the main gate, cross the tracks, and turn right on route 188 at the first traffic light. Follow route 188 until route 2. At route 2, turn left. Follow route 2 to the expressway entrance. (Yes, there are faster and shorter ways to get there but these directions are easy to explain and easy to follow.)

Once you pass the toll gate, get on the expressway going in the direction of Hiroshima. Near Hiroshima there will be a junction with the Chugoku Expressway. Stay on the **Sanyo Expressway**. (Although some older maps do not show it, the Chugoku and Sanyo expressways do meet up again. Traveling via the Sanyo expressway will save some driving time and distance.) Follow the **Sanyo Expressway** until it ends at the **Chugoku Expressway**. (There won't be a toll gate, you will simply merge onto the Chugoku Expressway.)

The service area "**Miki**" (at milepost 26) is one of the last service areas on the Sanyo Expressway. It would be a good idea to top off your gas tank here as there aren't that many service areas after this point. In addition, this is the only service area we've seen in Japan with a KFC.

Once you get on the **Chugoku Expressway** watch the signs for the **Kinki Expressway** and Kansai Airport. (Note that the Osaka Airport is a different airport.) From this point it's really a no brainer as the signs to the airport are pretty easy to follow. Follow the signs and exit the **Chugoku Expressway** and get on the **Kinki Expressway**. This will be the first of four toll booths you will go through on your way to the airport. At this point you are still about an hour away from the airport.

Follow the **Kinki Expressway** until it changes to the **Hanwa Expressway**. You will not have to turn or exit, only the name of the expressway changes.

Follow the **Hanwa Expressway** until the **Kansaikuko Expressway** ("Kansai Kuko" means Kansai Airport in Japanese.) Exit the **Hanwa Expressway** and get on the **Kansaikuko Expressway**. Follow the **Kansaikuko Expressway** to the airport.

Returning to Iwakuni can be a bit confusing. Make certain to follow the **Kansaikuko Expressway** all the way until it joins with the **Hanwa Expressway**.

Revised: 24 Dec 2002